

FROM:

Oregon Geo. Board.
Public Service Bldg.
Portland, Oregon

9/28/43

NO. 100471

RECEIVED: 10/4/43

TO:
Dr. Burrill

Re: decision in the Sixth Report
page 226, about the Coast Ranges.

*See me
Burrill*

ANSWERED:

22718



Oregon Geographic Board

Public Service Building
PORTLAND, OREGON

Zone 4

September 28, 1943

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Mr Meredith F. Burrill, Director
U S Board on Geographical Names
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Burrill:

This refers to the decision in the Sixth Report, page 226, about the Coast Ranges.

The decision is correct enough as far as it goes but it does not lend itself well to use on maps. For instance, we have in Oregon but one Coast Range, or at least the name Coast Range is the one that is generally used to apply to the mountains near the sea. The form Coast Ranges would not be considered appropriate and it is not in use although the name Coast Mountains is sometimes used.

Even on a small-scale map I do not think the name Coast Ranges is appropriate when it is applied to Oregon and Washington. There are probably places in California where the name Coast Ranges would be satisfactory on a small-scale map as it would be a collective name, referring to parallel ranges.

On large-scale maps along the Oregon Coast the correct usage, in my opinion, is Coast Range, and I think the same arrangement would prevail in California where the reference is to a local feature, unless of course the feature has a distinctive name. I do not know how the decision might be reworded, but it seems to me that as it is now it is a comprehensive or collective decision rather than for the individual feature. I do not recall ever having heard the name Coast Ranges applied to the western mountains of Oregon, although I have seen it on small-scale maps. Even then I doubt the correctness of the form. I note in maps issued by the U. S. Soil Survey, U. S. Forest Service and the U. S. Army covering areas near the Oregon Coast the singular style is used.

I think the decision should authorize the use of the form Coast Range when referring to one range. Incidentally, we have the name Cascade Range in Oregon, Washington and California, singular in style.

Please note that the printed decision on page 226 has the word Mohave. It should be Mojave.

LAMCA-GH

Very truly yours,

Secretary

100471